

TREATY WITH PANAMA ON THE RETURN OF VEHICLES
AND AIRCRAFT

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

TREATY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
PANAMA FOR THE RETURN OF STOLEN, ROBBED, OR CON-
VERTED VEHICLES AND AIRCRAFT, WITH ANNEXES, SIGNED AT
PANAMA ON JUNE 6, 2000, AND A RELATED EXCHANGE OF
NOTES OF JULY 25, 2000



SEPTEMBER 5, 2000.—The Treaty was read the first time, and together
with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign
Relations and ordered to be printed for the use of the Senate

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 5, 2000.*

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Panama for the Return of Stolen, Robbed, or Converted Vehicles and Aircraft, with Annexes, signed at Panama on June 6, 2000, and a related exchange of notes of July 25, 2000. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

The Treaty is one of a series of stolen vehicle treaties being negotiated by the United States in order to eliminate the difficulties faced by owners of vehicles that have been stolen and transported across international borders. Like several in this series, this Treaty also covers aircraft. When it enters into force, it will be an effective tool to facilitate the return of U.S. vehicles and aircraft that have been stolen, robbed, or converted and taken to Panama.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty, with Annexes and a related exchange of notes, and give its advice and consent to ratification.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, August 15, 2000.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House.

THE PRESIDENT: I have the honor to submit to you the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Panama for the Return of Stolen, Robbed, or Converted Vehicles and Aircraft ("the Treaty"), with Annexes, signed at Panama on June 6, 2000, and a related exchange of notes of July 25, 2000. I recommend that the Treaty, with Annexes and related exchange of notes, be transmitted to the Senate for its advice and consent to ratification.

The Treaty establishes procedures for the return by either Party of vehicles and aircraft that are registered, titled or otherwise documented (or, in the case of aircraft, manufactured) in the territory of one Party; stolen, robbed, or converted in the territory of that Party or from one of its nationals; and found in the territory of the other Party. The United States currently has only one such treaty in force, the 1981 Convention between the United States of America and the United Mexican States for the Recovery and Return of Stolen or Embezzled Vehicles and Aircraft ("U.S.-Mexico Treaty"). The Treaty with Panama is one of several treaties that have recently been negotiated with countries in Central America, the Caribbean, and Central Europe and contains many provisions similar to those in the 1981 U.S.-Mexico Treaty. At the same time, the Treaty with Panama incorporates an important improvement in one aspect over the U.S.-Mexico Treaty in that it sets more restrictive deadlines for action by the Party receiving a request for the return of a vehicle or aircraft. As with the U.S.-Mexico Treaty, this Treaty will not require implementing legislation.

Article 1 defines certain terms for purposes of the Treaty.

Article 2 sets forth the agreement of the Parties, in accordance with the Treaty's terms, to return vehicles or aircraft that are registered, titled, or otherwise documented (or, in the case of aircraft, manufactured) in the territory of one Party; stolen, robbed, or converted in the territory of that Party or from one of its nationals; and found in the territory of the other Party. Where the vehicle or aircraft is stolen, robbed or converted from a Party's national outside that Party's territory, the obligation to return only arises if the request for return is made before a third country requests the return of the same vehicle or aircraft.

Article 3 provides for the establishment of Central Authorities and designates Central Authorities to process notifications and re-

quests made under the Treaty. For the United States, the Central Authority is the Department of State, or the Embassy of the United States of America in Panama. For the Republic of Panama, the Central Authority is the Office of the Attorney General or the Office of the Deputy Attorney General.

Article 4 provides the Treaty's notification requirements. Article 4(1) requires that whenever the police, customs, or other authorities of a Party seize a vehicle that they have reason to believe is registered, titled, or otherwise documented in the territory of the other Party, the Central Authority of the first party shall, within 60 days of the seizure, notify the Central Authority of the other Party in writing that its authorities have the vehicle in custody. This notification must include all available data identifying the vehicle, as described in Annex 1. Article 4(2) requires that whenever the police, customs, or other authorities of a party seize an aircraft that they have reason to believe is registered, titled, otherwise documented, or manufactured in the territory of the other Party, the Central Authority of the first Party shall, within 60 days of the seizure, notify the Central Authority of the other Party in writing that its authorities have the aircraft in custody. This notification must include all available data identifying the aircraft, as described in Annex 2. Annexes 1 and 2 contain the information the Parties agreed would be sufficient to develop a reliable and complete identification of the vehicle or aircraft.

Article 4(3) provides that whenever a vehicle or aircraft, as described in paragraph 1 or 2 of Article 4, is seized by authorities of one of the Parties because it may have been involved in the commission, or may represent the proceeds, of a crime, the Central Authority of the first Party shall, within 60 days of such seizure, notify the Central Authority of the other Party, in writing, of the seizure and of the reasons for it. This notification provides the owner or the owner's authorized representative with an opportunity to make use of the recourse provided by the laws of the first Party.

Article 5 requires authorities who have seized a vehicle or aircraft that they have reason to believe is registered, titled, or otherwise documented in the territory of the other Party (or, in the case of aircraft, manufactured in the territory of the other Party), to promptly place it in a storage area and to take reasonable steps to safeguard it, including those necessary to prevent the obliteration or modification of identifying information, such as vehicle identification numbers and aircraft registration or tail numbers. The article also prohibits such authorities from operating, auctioning, dismantling, or otherwise altering or disposing of the vehicle or aircraft unless one of several enumerated conditions is met, *e.g.*, no request for the return of the vehicle or aircraft is received within 60 days of receipt of a notification made pursuant to Article 4.

Article 6 prescribes the form and content of requests for return of vehicles and aircraft under the Treaty. Article 6(1) provides that after a Party has received a notification pursuant to Article 4, it may submit a request for the return of the vehicle or aircraft. Article 6(2) requires the request to be transmitted under seal of the Central Authority of the Requesting Party and to follow the form appended in Annex 3 (for vehicles) or Annex 4 (for aircraft).

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Requests must include certified copies of documents listed in Article 6(3) (for vehicles) or Article 6(4) (for aircraft). Pursuant to Article 6(5) all documents referenced in Article 6 must be accompanied by an appropriate translation. An exchange of notes accompanying the Treaty memorializes the Parties' understanding that an "appropriate translation" includes translations on printed forms, in the English and Spanish languages, with appropriate blanks to be filled in with the particular information relating to the vehicle or the aircraft whose return is being requested. No further legalization or authentication of documents may be required by the Requested party.

Under Article 7, a Party that has learned outside of the Article 4 notification process that the authorities of the other Party may have seized a vehicle or aircraft that may be registered, titled, or otherwise documented (or, in the case of aircraft, manufactured) in the territory of the first Party, or that the authorities of the other Party have seized such vehicle or aircraft because it may have been involved in the commission, or may represent the proceeds, of a crime may, through a written communication to the Central Authority of the other Party, seek official confirmation of this and may request the other Party to provide notification pursuant to Article 4. If a notification is requested, the other Party must either provide the notification or explain, in writing, why notification is not required. The first Party may also, in appropriate cases, submit a request for return of the vehicle or aircraft.

Article 8 details the procedures for a Requested Party's review of a request. Article 8(1) requires that, except as provided in Article 9, the Requested Party must determine, within 30 days of receiving a request for the return of a stolen, robbed, or converted vehicle or aircraft, whether the request meets the requirements of the Treaty and notify the Central Authority of the Requesting Party of its determination. Article 8(2) requires the Requested Party, within 15 days of its determination that a request for return meets the requirements of the Treaty, to make the vehicle or aircraft available to the owner or the owner's authorized representative. The vehicle or aircraft must remain available for the owner or the owner's authorized representative to take delivery for 90 days. The Requested Party is also required to take necessary measures to permit the owner or the owner's authorized representative to take delivery of the vehicle or aircraft and return it to the territory of the Requesting Party. Where the Requested Party determines that a request for return does not meet the requirements of the Treaty, under Article 8(3) it must provide written notification to the Central Authority of the Requesting Party, including the grounds for its determination.

Article 9 sets forth several circumstances under which a Requested State either has no obligation to return a vehicle or aircraft for which return has been requested or can defer the surrender of the vehicle or aircraft. Article 9(1) provides that if a vehicle or aircraft whose return is requested is being held in connection with a criminal investigation or prosecution, its return will be effected when its presence is no longer required for that investigation or prosecution. However, the Requested Party is required to take all practicable measures to ensure that substitute pictorial or other

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evidence is used whenever possible in such investigation or prosecution so that the vehicle or aircraft may be returned as soon as possible.

Article 9(2) provides that if the ownership or custody of a vehicle or an aircraft whose return is requested is at issue in a pending judicial action in the territory of the Requested Party, its return shall be effected at the conclusion of that judicial action. However, if such judicial action results in a decision that awards the vehicle or aircraft to a person other than the person identified in the request for return as the owner of the vehicle or aircraft or the owner's authorized representative, the Requested State has no obligation to return the vehicle or aircraft under the Treaty.

Article 9(3) states that a Party shall have no obligation to return a requested vehicle or aircraft if such vehicle or aircraft is subject to forfeiture under its laws because it was used in its territory for the commission of a crime with the consent or complicity of the owner, or because it represents the proceeds of such a crime.

Under Article 9(4), a Party will have no obligation to return a stolen, robbed, or converted vehicle or aircraft if no request for return is received within 60 days of receipt of a notification made pursuant to Article 4.

Article 9(5) requires the Requested Party to notify the Central Authority of the Requesting Party in writing within 30 days of receipt of a request for return if the return of a stolen, robbed, or converted vehicle or aircraft is postponed pursuant to Article 9.

Article 10 addresses expenses associated with the return of vehicles and aircraft under the Treaty. Article 10(1) prohibits the Requested Party from imposing any import or export duties, taxes, fines, or other monetary penalties or charges on vehicles or aircraft returned in accordance with the Treaty, or on their owners or authorized representatives, as a condition for the return of such vehicles or aircraft. Article 10(2) provides that reasonable expenses incurred in the return, including towing costs, storage costs, maintenance costs, transportation costs, and costs of translation of documents required under the Treaty will be borne by the person seeking the return and will be paid prior to the return of the vehicle or aircraft. Under Article 10(3), the expenses of return in particular cases may include the costs of any repairs or reconditioning of a vehicle or aircraft that were necessary to permit the vehicle or aircraft to be moved to a storage area or maintained in the condition in which it was found. However, the person seeking the return of the vehicle or aircraft will not be responsible for the costs of any other work performed on the vehicle or aircraft while it was in the custody of the authorities of the Requested Party.

Article 10(4) provides that if the Requested Party complies with the provisions of the Treaty with respect to recovery, storage, safekeeping, and, where appropriate, return of a vehicle or aircraft, no person will be entitled to compensation from the Requested Party for damages sustained while the vehicle or aircraft was in the custody of the Requested Party.

Article 11 provides that the mechanisms for the recovery and return of stolen, robbed, or converted vehicles or aircraft under this Treaty shall be in addition to those available under the laws of the Requested Party. It also states that nothing in the Treaty shall im-

pair any rights for the recovery of stolen, robbed, or converted vehicles or aircraft under applicable law.

Article 12(1) states that any differences regarding the interpretation or application of the Treaty will be resolved through consultations between the Parties through diplomatic channels. Article 12(2) states that the Treaty will be subject to ratification and will enter into force on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification. Article 12(3) provides that either Party may terminate the Treaty upon 90 days written notification through diplomatic channels.

The Department of Justice joins the Department of State in favoring approval of the Treaty, with Annexes and related exchange of notes, by the Senate as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

STROBE TALBOTT.

**TREATY
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
FOR THE RETURN OF STOLEN, ROBBED, OR CONVERTED
VEHICLES AND AIRCRAFT**

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Panama (hereinafter, "the Parties");

Recognizing the growing problem, affecting both countries, of transnational theft, robbery, and conversion of vehicles and aircraft;

Considering the difficulties faced by innocent owners in securing the return of vehicles and aircraft stolen, robbed, or converted in the territory of one Party that are recovered in the territory of the other Party; and

Desiring to eliminate such difficulties and to regularize procedures for the expeditious return of such vehicles and aircraft;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

For purposes of this Treaty:

1. A "vehicle" means any automobile, truck, bus, motorcycle, motorhome, or trailer.
2. An "aircraft" means any self-propelled means of transportation used or designed for flight.
3. A vehicle or an aircraft shall be considered "stolen" when possession thereof has been obtained without the consent of the owner or other person legally authorized to use such vehicle or aircraft, and shall be considered "robbed" when such possession has been obtained through the use of force against persons or things.
4. A vehicle or an aircraft shall be considered "converted" when:
 - (a) the person who had rented it from a legally authorized rental enterprise, in the normal course of the enterprise's business, has taken unauthorized possession of it;
 - (b) the person with whom it had been deposited by official or judicial action has taken unauthorized possession of it; or
 - (c) the person to whom it had been entrusted by the owner or the owner's legal representative has taken unauthorized possession of it, for his own benefit or that of a third person.
5. To "seize" means to take possession or custody of property in the exercise of law enforcement authority.
6. All references to "days" shall mean calendar days.

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Article 2

Each Party agrees to return, in accordance with the terms of this Treaty, vehicles and aircraft that are:

- 1. registered, titled, or otherwise documented (or, in the case of aircraft, manufactured) in the territory of the other Party;**
- 2. stolen, robbed, or converted in the territory of the other Party, or from one of its nationals; and**
- 3. found in the territory of the first Party.**

In the case of a vehicle or aircraft that has been stolen, robbed, or converted outside of the territory of the other Party from one of its nationals, the obligation to return the vehicle or aircraft shall arise only if the request for its return under this Treaty is made prior to any request by a third country for return of the same vehicle or aircraft.

Article 3

- 1. Each Party shall designate a Central Authority responsible for processing notifications and requests under this Treaty.**
- 2. For the United States of America, the Central Authority shall be the Department of State or the Embassy of the United States of America in Panama.**
- 3. For the Republic of Panama, the Central Authority shall be the Office of the Attorney General or the Office of the Deputy Attorney General.**

Article 4

1. Whenever police, customs, or other authorities of a Party seize a vehicle that they have reason to believe is registered, titled, or otherwise documented in the territory of the other Party, the Central Authority of the first Party shall, within sixty (60) days of such seizure, notify the Central Authority of the other Party in writing that its authorities have the vehicle in custody. Such notification shall include all available data identifying the vehicle, as described in Annex 1.

2. Whenever police, customs, or other authorities of a Party seize an aircraft that they have reason to believe is registered, titled, otherwise documented, or manufactured in the territory of the other Party, the Central Authority of the first Party shall, within sixty (60) days of such seizure, notify the Central Authority of the other Party in writing that its authorities have the aircraft in custody. Such notification shall include all data identifying the aircraft, as described in Annex 2.

3. Whenever a vehicle or an aircraft, as described in paragraphs 1 or 2 of this Article, is seized by authorities of one of the Parties because it may have been involved in the commission, or may represent the proceeds, of a crime, the Central Authority of the first Party shall, within sixty (60) days of such seizure, notify the Central Authority of the other Party, in writing, of the seizure and of the reasons for it, so that the owner or the owner's authorized representative may have an opportunity to make use of the recourse provided by the laws of the first Party.

Article 5

Authorities of a Party who have seized a vehicle or an aircraft that they have reason to believe is registered, titled, or otherwise documented in the territory of the other Party (or, in the case of aircraft, manufactured in the territory of the other Party) shall promptly place it in a storage area and shall

take reasonable steps to safeguard it, including those necessary to prevent the obliteration or modification of identifying information such as vehicle identification numbers and aircraft registration or tail numbers. The said authorities shall not thereafter operate, auction, dismantle, or otherwise alter or dispose of the vehicle or aircraft. This Treaty, however, shall not preclude the said authorities from operating, auctioning, dismantling, or otherwise altering or disposing of the vehicle or aircraft if:

1. No request for the return of the vehicle or aircraft is received within sixty (60) days of receipt of a notification made pursuant to paragraphs 1 or 2 of Article 4;
2. A determination is made in accordance with paragraph 1 of Article 8 that a request for the return of the vehicle or aircraft does not meet the requirements of this Treaty, and notification of such determination has been made in accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 8;
3. The vehicle or aircraft has not been retrieved, within the time period stated in paragraph 2 of Article 8, by the person identified in the request for return as the owner or the owner's authorized representative, after the vehicle or aircraft has been made available as provided in paragraph 2 of Article 8; or
4. There is no obligation under this Treaty, pursuant to paragraphs 2, 3 or 4 of Article 9, to return the vehicle or aircraft.

Article 6

1. After a Party receives a notification made pursuant to paragraphs 1 or 2 of Article 4, that Party may submit a request for the return of the vehicle or aircraft.

2. The request for return shall be transmitted under an official seal of the Central Authority of the Requesting Party and shall follow the form appended in Annex 3 (for vehicles) or Annex 4 (for aircraft).

3. In cases involving vehicles, a request shall include certified copies of the following documents:

- (a) The title of ownership to the vehicle, if the vehicle is subject to titling, but, if the title is not available, a certified statement from the appropriate authority specifying the person or entity to whom it is titled;
- (b) The certificate of registration of the vehicle, if the vehicle is subject to registration, but, if the registration document is not available, a certified statement from the appropriate authority specifying the person or entity to whom it is registered;
- (c) The bill of sale or other documentation that establishes ownership of the vehicle, in the event the vehicle is not titled or registered;
- (d) Documentation that establishes the transfer of ownership of the vehicle, if subsequent to the theft, robbery, or conversion of the vehicle, the owner has transferred ownership to a third party;
- (e) The report of the theft, robbery, or conversion issued by a competent authority of the Requesting Party. In the event that the crime is reported by the victim to the competent authority after the vehicle has been seized or otherwise has come into possession of the Requested Party, the person seeking its return shall furnish a document justifying the reasons for the delay in reporting the crime and may provide any supporting documentation therefor; and

- (f) In cases in which the person requesting the return of a vehicle is not the owner, a power of attorney granted in the presence of a notary public by the owner or the owner's legal representative, authorizing that person to recover the vehicle.

4. In cases involving aircraft, a request shall include certified copies of the following documents:

- (a) The bill of sale or other documentation that establishes ownership of the aircraft;
- (b) The certificate of registration of the aircraft, but, if the registration document is not available, a certified statement from the appropriate authority specifying the person or entity to whom it is registered;
- (c) Documentation that establishes the transfer of ownership of the aircraft, if subsequent to the theft, robbery, or conversion of the aircraft, the owner has transferred ownership to a third party;
- (d) The report of the theft, robbery, or conversion issued by a competent authority of the Requesting Party. In the event that the crime is reported by the victim to the competent authority after the aircraft has been seized or otherwise has come into possession of the Requested Party, the person seeking its return shall furnish a document justifying the reasons for the delay in reporting the crime and may provide any supporting documentation therefor; and

- (e) In cases in which the person requesting the return of an aircraft is not the owner, a power of attorney granted in the presence of a notary public by the owner or the owner's legal representative, authorizing that person to recover the aircraft.

5. All the documents to which this Article refers shall be accompanied by an appropriate translation. No further legalization or authentication of documents shall be required by the Requested Party.

Article 7

If a Party learns, through means other than a notification made pursuant to Article 4, that the authorities of the other Party may have seized a vehicle or an aircraft that may be registered, titled, or otherwise documented in the territory of the first Party (or, in the case of aircraft, manufactured in the territory of the first Party), or that authorities of the other Party have seized such a vehicle or aircraft because it may have been involved in the commission, or may represent the proceeds, of a crime, that Party:

1. May, through a written communication to the Central Authority of the other Party, seek official confirmation of this information and may request that the other Party provide the notification described in Article 4, in which case the other Party shall either provide the notification or explain, in writing, why notification is not required; and
2. May also, in appropriate cases, submit a request for the return of the vehicle or aircraft as described in Article 6.

Article 8

1. Except as provided in Article 9, the Requested Party shall, within thirty (30) days of receiving a request for the return of a stolen, robbed, or converted vehicle or aircraft, determine whether the request meets the

requirements of this Treaty for the return of the vehicle or aircraft and shall notify the Central Authority of the Requesting Party of its determination.

2. If the Requested Party determines that the request for the return of a stolen, robbed, or converted vehicle or aircraft meets the requirements of this Treaty, the Requested Party shall, within fifteen (15) days of such determination, make the vehicle or aircraft available to the person identified in the request for return as the owner or the owner's authorized representative. For a period of ninety (90) days, the vehicle or aircraft shall remain available for acceptance of delivery by the person identified in the request for return as the owner or the owner's authorized representative. The Requested Party shall take necessary measures to permit the owner or the owner's authorized representative to take delivery of the vehicle or aircraft and to return it to the territory of the Requesting Party.

3. If the Requested Party determines that the request for return does not meet the requirements of this Treaty, it shall provide written notification to the Central Authority of the Requesting Party, including the grounds for its decision.

Article 9

1. If a vehicle or an aircraft whose return is requested is being held as evidence in connection with a criminal investigation or prosecution, its return pursuant to this Treaty shall be effected when its presence is no longer required for purposes of that investigation or prosecution. The Requested Party shall, however, take all practicable measures to assure that substitute pictorial or other evidence is used wherever possible in such investigation or prosecution so that the vehicle or aircraft may be returned as soon as possible.

2. If the ownership or custody of a vehicle or an aircraft whose return is requested is at issue in a pending judicial action in the territory of the Requested Party, its return pursuant to this Treaty shall be effected at the conclusion of that judicial action. However, the Parties shall have no obligation under this Treaty to return the vehicle or aircraft if such judicial action results in a decision that awards the vehicle or aircraft to a person other

than the person identified in the request for return as the owner of the vehicle or aircraft or the owner's authorized representative.

3. A Party shall have no obligation under this Treaty to return a requested vehicle or aircraft if such vehicle or aircraft is subject to forfeiture under its laws because it was used in its territory in the commission of a crime with the owner's consent or complicity, or because it represents the proceeds of such a crime.

4. The Parties shall not be obligated under this Treaty to return a stolen, robbed, or converted vehicle or aircraft if no request for return is received within sixty (60) days of receipt of a notification made pursuant to paragraphs 1 or 2 of Article 4.

5. If the requested return of a stolen, robbed, or converted vehicle or aircraft is postponed pursuant to this Article, the Requested Party shall so notify the Central Authority of the Requesting Party in writing within thirty (30) days of receiving the request for the return of the vehicle or aircraft.

Article 10

1. The Requested Party shall not impose any import or export duties, taxes, fines, or other monetary penalties or charges on vehicles or aircraft returned in accordance with this Treaty, or on their owners or such owners' authorized representatives, as a condition for the return of such vehicles or aircraft.

2. Reasonable expenses incurred in the return of the vehicle or aircraft in accordance with this Treaty, including the costs of towing, storage, maintenance, transportation, and translation of required documents, shall be borne by the person seeking its return and shall be paid prior to the return of the vehicle or aircraft.

3. In particular cases, the expenses of return may include the costs of any repairs or reconditioning of a vehicle or an aircraft that were necessary to permit the vehicle or aircraft to be moved to a storage area or to maintain it in the condition in which it was found. The person seeking the return of a vehicle or an aircraft shall not be responsible for the costs of any other work performed on the vehicle or aircraft while it was in the custody of the authorities of the Requested Party.

4. Provided that the Requested Party complies with the provisions of this Treaty with respect to recovery, storage, safekeeping, and, where appropriate, return of a vehicle or an aircraft, no person shall be entitled to compensation from the Requested Party for damages sustained while the vehicle or aircraft was in the custody of the Requested Party.

Article 11

The mechanisms for the recovery and return of stolen, robbed, or converted vehicles or aircraft under this Treaty shall be in addition to those available under the laws of the Requested Party. Nothing in this Treaty shall impair any rights for the recovery of stolen, robbed, or converted vehicles or aircraft under applicable law.

Article 12

1. Any differences regarding the interpretation or application of this Treaty shall be resolved by means of consultation between the Parties through diplomatic channels.

2. This Treaty shall be subject to ratification. It shall enter into force on the date of exchange of instruments of ratification.

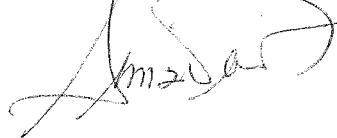
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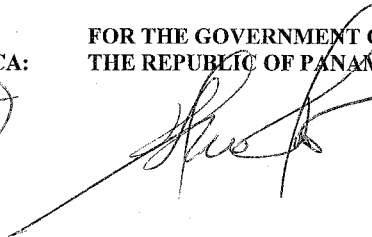
3. Either Party may terminate this Treaty upon ninety (90) days written notification through diplomatic channels.

SIGNED at Panama , this sixth---- day of June , 2000, in duplicate, in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES AMERICA:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "L. S. S.", written over a horizontal line.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "R. A. R.", written over a horizontal line.

ANNEX 1

**Identifying Information Regarding Vehicles
to be Provided in a
Notification Made Pursuant to Article 4**

1. Vehicle Identification Number (VIN);
2. Name of manufacturer of vehicle;
3. Vehicle model and year of manufacture, if known;
4. Color of vehicle;
5. License plate number (LPN) of vehicle and place of issuance, if known;
6. Number of tag or sticker issued by a city or other local authority, and name of such city or other local authority, if known;
7. A description of the condition of the vehicle, including its operability, if known, and repairs that appear necessary;
8. The current location of the vehicle;
9. The identity of the authority with physical custody of the vehicle and a contact point, including name, address, and telephone number of the official with recovery information;
10. Any information that indicates whether the vehicle has been used in connection with the commission of a crime; and
11. Any information that indicates whether the vehicle might be subject to forfeiture under the laws of the notifying Party.

ANNEX 2

**Identifying Information Regarding Aircraft
to be Provided in a
Notification Made Pursuant to Article 4**

1. Aircraft registration number;
2. Name of manufacturer of aircraft;
3. Aircraft model and year of manufacture, if known;
4. Color of aircraft;
5. Aircraft serial number (airframe number);
6. Aircraft engine number(s);
7. A description of the condition of the aircraft, including its airworthiness and flyability, if known, and repairs that appear necessary;
8. The location of the aircraft at the time of seizure;
9. The current location of the aircraft;
10. The identity of the authority with physical custody of the aircraft and a contact point, including name, address, and telephone number of the official with recovery information;
11. Any information that indicates whether the aircraft has been used in connection with the commission of a crime;
12. Any information that indicates whether the aircraft might be subject to forfeiture under the laws of the notifying Party;
13. The names of any individuals involved with the aircraft at the time of seizure; and
14. A description of any cargo or documents found aboard the aircraft at the time of seizure, including aircraft or engine logs, airworthiness certificate, registration certificate, pilot's license, etc.

ANNEX 3

**Request for the Return
of a Stolen, Robbed, or Converted Vehicle**

The (Central Authority) of (country name) respectfully requests that (the appropriate authority of [country name]) return the vehicle described below to (its owner/its owner's authorized representative) in accordance with the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Panama for the Return of Stolen, Robbed, or Converted Vehicles and Aircraft:

Make:

Model (Year):

Type:

Vehicle Identification Number:

License Plate Number:

Registered Owner:

The (Central Authority) of (country name) certifies that it has examined the following documents which have been presented by (identity of person submitting documents) as evidence of (his or her ownership of the vehicle/ ownership of the vehicle by the person for whom he or she is acting as authorized representative) and found them to be properly certified under the laws of (appropriate jurisdiction):

- a. (document description)
- b. (document description)
- c. (document description)
- d. (document description)

Complimentary closing

Place and date

Attachments

ANNEX 4

**Request for the Return
of a Stolen, Robbed, or Converted Aircraft**

The (Central Authority) of (country name) respectfully requests that (the appropriate authority of [country name]) return the aircraft described below to (its owner/its owner's authorized representative) in accordance with the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Panama for the Return of Stolen, Robbed, or Converted Vehicles and Aircraft:

Make:
Model (Year):
Serial Number:
Registration Number:
Registered Owner:

The (Central Authority) of (country name) certifies that it has examined the following documents which have been presented by (identity of person submitting documents) as evidence of (his or her ownership of the aircraft/ ownership of the aircraft by the person for whom he or she is acting as authorized representative) and found them to be properly certified under the laws of (appropriate jurisdiction):

- a. (document description)
- b. (document description)
- c. (document description)
- d. (document description)

Complimentary closing
Place and date
Attachments

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Panama, July 25, 2000

No. 810

Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Panama for the Return of Stolen, Robbed, or Converted Vehicles and Aircraft, signed on June 6, 2000.

Article 6 of the Treaty sets forth the documents that the Requesting Party shall include in a request for the return of a vehicle or aircraft. Paragraph 5 of Article 6 provides that all such documents "shall be accompanied by an appropriate translation."

It is the understanding of the Government of the United States of America that, for purposes of this Article and with regard to standard language used in registration and title documents originating in both Parties, an "appropriate translation" will include translations on printed forms, in the English and Spanish languages, with appropriate blanks to be filled in with the particular information relating to the vehicle or the aircraft the return of which is being requested.

I would appreciate confirmation that the Government of the Republic of Panama shares this understanding.

His Excellency

Harmodio Arias Cerjack,

Minister of Foreign Relations, a.i.,

Panama, Republic of Panama.



**U.S. Department of State
Office of Language Services
Translating Division**

LS No. 0800079
HKE/JF
Spanish

Republic of Panama
Panama City

Ministry of Foreign Relations
Office of the Minister
D.M. No. DT/311

July 25, 2000

Mr. Ambassador:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your note No. 810, dated today, which reads
as follows:

[The Spanish translation of the above-mentioned note agrees in all substantive respects
with the original English text.]

In this regard, I have the honor to confirm that the Government of the Republic of
Panama concurs with said understanding.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my
highest consideration.

[Signature]

Harmodio Arias Cerjack
Acting Minister

[Illegible stamp]

His Excellency
Simon Ferro,
Ambassador of the United States of America,
Panama City.